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Doc Aquis: Materials Vendors' Online Services

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DOC AQUIS . . .

Materials Vendors' Online Services.

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Day by day, uses of the Internet are increasing among acquisitions librarians and their staffs. Through email, gopher, world wide web, ftp, and dial access librarians are able to correspond with colleagues and vendors, find bibliographic data, and conduct routine business transactions. Some business operations might include accessing their accounts, searching vendor's databases, placing orders, claiming materials, downloading bibliographic records, and receiving invoices — electronically. Obvious advantages of electronic transactions over traditional paper transactions include the speed of transmission, the accuracy and immediacy of the information delivered, and the ability for information to be loaded directly into the receiving party's computer system. Time and labor are savings that can be attributed to the many online services available. This article is the first of a series planned to highlight the various materials vendors' online services.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION: Blackwell's CONNECT and NTO Services by Mary McLaren

CONNECT

Blackwell's CONNECT is an online access service which provides customer access to B. H. Blackwell's serials and monographic databases in Oxford, England. The main functions of this menu-driven system are bibliographic inquiry, order entry, order inquiry, and electronic messaging. Serials staff may also be interested in examining outstanding claims for journals including the publisher's claim responses, routing journals to new locations automatically, or reviewing or renewing subscriptions. Monograph and standing orders inquiries provide information on availability and current price information.

CONNECT includes the facility to download files of a library's open orders and subscriptions to a personal computer. These files can then be converted into popular database management program formats for internal use. CONNECT provides libraries with up-to-the-minute views of their Blackwell subscriptions, standing orders, and firm orders. This is in addition to providing for an overview of the larger universe of serials and monographic information contained within its bibliographic file of over 1,200,000 items.

NTO

Blackwell's New Titles Online (NTO) service offers Internet access to both Blackwell North America and B.H. Blackwell's comprehensive New Titles databases. Containing more than 500,000 bibliographic citations, the databases cover scholarly monographs in the English language published during the most recent 6 years as well as those scheduled for publication within the coming months. NTO provides current data relating to price, publication status, content and descriptive and cataloging information. It serves as a verification tool as well as an online ordering facility. Approval customers can use NTO in conjunction with their approval and

NTAS (New Titles Announcement Service) plans.

Collection development staff may choose to use NTO to identify lists of titles by subject, publisher, LC classification codes, keyword, author, or author's institutional affiliation. In addition to full bibliographic citations, subject and non-subject parameters are included. A "Request" function enables non-acquisitions staff to mark selected titles and input specific request-related information to be transmitted to the acquisitions staff for processing. An optional feature of NTO which subscribers may purchase is the Tables of Contents and/or Descriptive Summaries access. Over 70% of the new titles added to NTO each week contain table of contents and/or book jacket information. Keyword access to these fields expands searching capabilities. The data contained therein is designed to assist selectors in determining the appropriateness of the titles under consideration.

Records found in NTO indicate approval plan information relative to an individual library such as: whether the item has been or will be supplied as an approval plan book, as a notification form, or as a standing order; profile parameters affecting the action; reason for rejection if a title was excluded from the plan coverage. Titles can be forced onto a library's approval plan if they do not fall within the defined profile or if the library is unsure of the status of a pending publication.

Titles located in NTO can be ordered instantly and electronic confirmations can optionally be received. Titles not found on the NTO databases can also be ordered via the DIRECT ORDER SYSTEM when either the ISBN or the Blackwell accession number is known. Subscriptions to the basic NTO service include provisions for a credit of 20 cents per order to be applied for all orders placed electronically. Subscriptions to the full service providing tables of contents, book summaries and LC MARC Record display are available for an additional charge. No supplemental or search charges are assessed. Please contact your Blackwell Regional Sales Manager for more information on any of these products.

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ONE LIBRARY'S RESPONSE: Blackwell's NTO Service by Christopher Daniel (Monograph Acquisitions Supervisor, University of Missouri-St. Louis Libraries)

The UM-St. Louis Libraries have been sending orders to BNA via NTO since December 1992. Under the NTAS portion of our BNA approval plan, we receive notification forms containing bibliographic data on new books. In the past, we ordered NTAS titles by mailing copies of the forms to BNA's New Jersey offices. Using NTO, NTAS orders, as well as pre-publication orders for approval books, can be placed electronically. NTO's greatest benefit is significantly reduced turnaround time.

BNA supplies an excellent manual for NTO, including detailed directions for linking to NTO, reading records, navigating, and ordering. We link to NTO by telnetting to BNA via the Internet; the database can also be accessed by modem. BNA supplies passwords for both Order and Inquiry modes. Collection development personnel use the Inquiry mode to search the database; the Order mode is used solely by Acquisitions personnel. (NTO has an "Order Request" function which forwards orders from the Inquiry mode to the Order mode for review. We have not incorporated this function into

our workflow as our division of duties makes it cumbersome to use.)

Navigating through the NTO database is not difficult; the wide variety of search terms is enhanced by keyword searching, truncation, and Boolean searching. The bibliographic records are well-designed and include major bibliographic access points and profiling details. Information on the status of books (OS, OP, NYP, etc.) is, when received from the publisher, regularly updated and displayed. NTO includes the ability to switch from BNA's database to that of its British cousin, B.H. Blackwell; a single keystroke transfers a search from one database to the other. Along with NTO's inclusion of records dating back to 1987, information on forthcoming titles, and its ISBN-driven firm order screen, this feature makes the database an excellent resource for bibliographic verification.

We place NTO orders by retrieving the desired record, entering "O" for Order, and following the ensuing instructions on the screen. In most cases, this process requires

no more than 15 seconds. BISAC information on orders placed can be obtained via FTP from BNA. We've only encountered one problem with NTO orders, and it occurred during our first year of using the database. In fewer than a dozen cases, our pre-publication orders were shifted to NTAS status rather than being shipped automatically. The problem seemed to be that when pre-order records were replaced by records for books actually received by BNA, our orders were somehow bumped. It didn't happen much, and doesn't happen any longer, but it was puzzling to both us and the BNA systems personnel.

NTO's annual price tag of \$500 can be swiftly offset by the 20-cent credit BNA issues for each order made via NTO. (Since we order over 2500 titles via NTO each calendar year, we haven't paid for the service since January 1993). The turnaround time for orders has been cut from an average of six weeks to three, and BNA has supplied better than 99% of the titles ordered this way.

Have You Heard?

SIRSI launched their new WebCat at the 1995 ALA Midwinter Conference. WebCat, which when used in conjunction with a library's existing Z39.50 compliant server and a popular Web browser like Mosaic and NETSCAPE, turns a library's resources into a full-fledged Web catalog. WebCat enables information centers throughout the world to offer their complete catalogs and services quickly and painlessly over the World Wide Web. WebCat's structure as an interactive, online, public access catalog on the World Wide Web offers one solution to providing easy information delivery to library patrons no matter where they happen to reside without having the headache of delivering and supporting library software on users' desktops.

In a move to expand access to electronic journals and bring scientists more fully into the integrated information age, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) announced plans to cooperate with Elsevier Science and The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) on a pilot project to deliver electronic journal subscriptions to the desktop through

SciFinder, CAS' new information-retrieval product. CAS currently provides access to complete page images of American Chemical Society (ACS) journals, including article charts, tables and pictures through SciFinder. Elsevier Science and The Royal Society of Chemistry are each discussing plans with CAS to add selected leading journals to the SciFinder electronic journals offering. Electronic subscriptions at pilot sites will be available later in 1995.

Other news from CAS is their initiative to capture scientific information from cyberspace this year in what is believed to be the first comprehensive effort to abstract and index journals and papers available only electronically on the Internet. CAS will become an archival source of access to electronic-only documents as it begins covering this medium, the result of new communications technology and the growth of the Internet. Electronic documents, which include journals, conferences where researchers are invited to submit papers, and individually posted papers, will be abstracted and indexed in the same manner that CAS

abstracts and indexes printed documents. CAS will screen the electronic-only documents, using the same criteria for coverage used for printed materials. Documents considered for inclusion in CAS databases will include those that report new information of chemical or chemical engineering interest; are publicly available free or through subscription; have some permanence; and are original publications. News releases, abstracts or messages placed on electronic bulletin boards or list servers will not be covered.

The latest news from OCLC includes the announcement of the new OCLC ILL Fee Management (IFM) service. This service is now available to OCLC PRISM ILL users to help reduce administrative costs associated with interlibrary loan activity. The OCLC IFM service is optional and is used on a request-by-request basis when a library is arranging a transaction with a library that charges for interlibrary loan. When the service is activated, the borrowing library receives a debit and the lender is is-

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sued a credit. OCLC then reconciles debits and credits on a monthly basis and provides credits to the lenders and bills to the borrowers. An IFM Detailed Monthly Report provides libraries with breakdowns of IFM debits and credits. The service may be particularly helpful in streamlining the interlibrary loan process across international boundaries, where tracking costs can be an obstacle.

Also of note is news that the **National Library in Prague (NLP)** is using the OCLC service for cataloging its foreign acquisitions. They are the first East European national library to contribute records to OCLC. NLP will contribute the **Czech National bibliography** to the **OCLC Online Union Catalog (OLUC)** beginning with 1995 data. Loading of the backfile of 1983-1994 records into OLUC is under consideration. NLP will contribute the records in UNIMARC 94 format and OCLC will convert the records into USMARC for loading into OLUC.

In other OCLC news, two new databases have been added to their reference services, **FirstSearch** and **Epic**. **ProceedingsFirst** and **PapersFirst** index

conference papers, sources of leading-edge research. **Inside Conferences**, from the **British Library Document Supply Center (BLDSC)**, is the source of both databases. **ProceedingsFirst** offers tables of contents from worldwide conferences, professional meetings and symposia, lists papers presented at those meetings, and provides an overview of the activities of such meetings. **PapersFirst** indexes individual papers presented at conferences, symposia and meetings worldwide. The databases provide access by author, paper title, journal and issue/monograph details, conference title, venue and date. Searchers of the **PapersFirst** database on **FirstSearch** can order the full text of most of the papers from BLDSC via **FirstSearch's** document ordering service. **ProceedingsFirst** and **PapersFirst** are available on a per-search basis, through subscription and as a part of the **FirstSearch Base Package**. Both databases are also searchable on **Epic**.

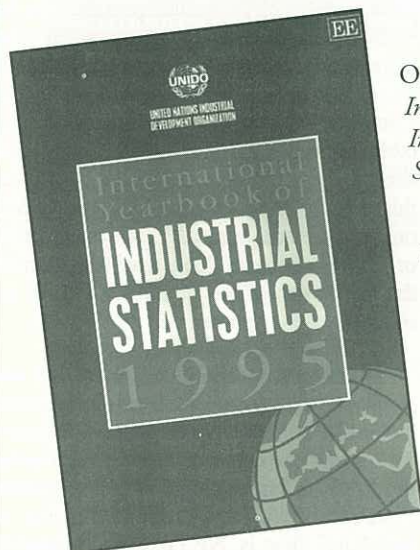
OCLC is now offering **FastDoc**, a bibliographic database on the **FirstSearch** service that gives library patrons quick, easy access to the full text of articles from over 1,000 popular general interest and business serials. The **FastDoc** database includes citations to electronic full text from both ASCII and image collections. So, once an item of interest is located in the **FastDoc** database,

the full text can be delivered to the patron online immediately, or within an hour via fax. The ASCII full text of articles can be printed from a workstation screen, downloaded to a disk, or sent via electronic mail to the requesting patron. **FastDoc** covers journal titles selected from two popular UMI databases: **ABI/INFORM**, the leading index of articles from current business and management publications; and **Periodical Abstracts**, a comprehensive reference to popular and academic serials.

Also available via **FirstSearch** and **Epic** (as well as other online outlets and channels) will be a new product from OCLC called **NetFirst**. **NetFirst** will be a comprehensive database of Internet-accessible resources that will be a practical, easy-to-use tool for Internet exploration and discovery. OCLC will create the database using a combination of automated collection and verification techniques and conventional abstracting and indexing practices. The database will contain bibliographic citations, complete with summary descriptions and subject headings, describing resources including World Wide Web pages, interest groups, library catalogs, FTP sites, Internet services, Gopher servers, electronic journals, and newsletters. Records will also contain location information that can be used to connect

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New! International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 1995



Edward Elgar Publishing, on behalf of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, is pleased to announce the *first issue* of the *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics*. This annual publication succeeds the UNIDO's *Handbook of Industrial Statistics* and, at the same time, replaces the *United Nations Industrial Statistics Yearbook*, Volume I General Industrial Statistics.

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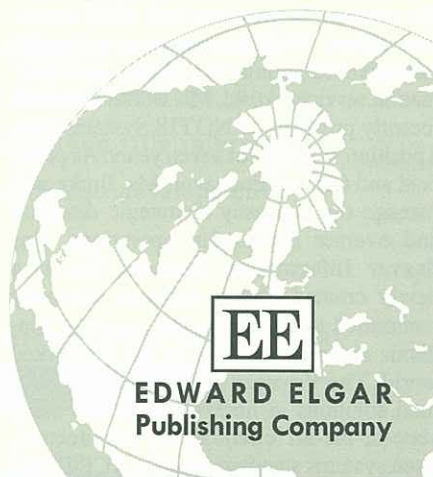


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Standing order discount plan available.



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users to resources of interest. OCLC will build an initial file of approximately 50,000 records for **NetFirst**, which will be introduced in the summer of 1995. The database is expected to grow by 10,000 to 15,000 records each month. Eventually, **NetFirst** record production will be integrated with the large-scale, cooperative Internet cataloging project being organized by the **OCLC Library Resources Management Division and Office of Research**. To date, more than 100 libraries have agreed to participate in the coordinated effort to create a searchable database of standardized bibliographic records for Internet-accessible materials, with electronic location and access information attached.

In April, the **Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)** will begin supplying documents in the **OCLC PRISM ILL Document Supplier Program**. Located at the **National Research Council of Canada** in Ottawa, CISTI is Canada's national science and technology information service, providing industry, educational organizations and government with worldwide information in all areas of science, engineering and medicine. The collection includes some 55,000 journal titles, over a half million books, millions of technical reports, and one of the world's largest collections of scientific conference proceedings. Subjects include engineering, electronics, computing science, materials, physics, mining technology, chemistry, food science and technology, and many others. The collection grows by more than 1,000 items a day, and CISTI currently responds to some 1,800 requests for documents a day. Libraries can access the CISTI document delivery service using the OCLC symbol CAI.

Endeavor Information Systems Inc., announced that **Jane Burke** has been named the company's president and chief executive officer. Well known as a successful executive throughout the library and information services world, Ms. Burke was most recently president of **NOTIS Systems, Inc.** a position she held for seven years. As president and CEO of Endeavor, Ms. Burke will manage the company's strategic direction and oversee day-to-day operations. **Endeavor Information Systems, Inc.** is a newly created library software company committed to enhancing the power of academic research libraries in the networked world. The **Voyager Library Series** offers total solutions in library automation using state-of-the-art client/server architecture, open systems standards such as TCP/IP and

Z39.50, Windows-compliant graphical user interfaces for staff and patrons, and image technology. Endeavor is currently supporting **Voyager 2.0**, a new release presently being installed at customer sites on three continents. This version supports expanded authority control functionality and second-generation Windows clients for staff and patrons. Endeavor plans to introduce its first major new release, **Voyager Version 3.0**, in mid-1995.

World Wide Web news includes access to these vendors:

The Faxon Company: <<http://www.faxon.com>>

Users will find serials price projections and trend analysis, bibliographic and pricing information on new serials publications, links to over 200 publishers on the WWW, a guide to the Internet designed for librarians, organizations and resources for library and publishing standards, details of the latest advances in EDI, technical support on Faxon products, industry related conference



information. Future enhancements will include: links to **Faxon** services, online documentation and quick reference guides for products, full-text articles about the serials industry, and additional information on industry standards.

EBSCO: <<http://vax.ebsco.com/>>

Provides information about **EBSCO Subscription Services**, **EBSCO Publishing** and **EBSCodoc**, including serial price projections and new electronic services for serials management, *At Your Service* newsletter, *New and Notable* newsletter, information about **EBSCOhost**, **EBSCodoc**, including a link to it for document delivery service, and **EBSCodoc ALERT!**, customized table of contents service. Links to universities, publishers and information resources will also be available.

UnCover Company: <http://www.carl.org/uncover/unchome.html>

Provides access to the **UnCover** database, information about additional services, pricing, copies of the *UnCover Update* newsletter, and a list of all **UnCover** titles. Fu-

ture plans include a glossary of terminology and a quick guide for using **UnCover**.

Ameritech Library Services has announced the next stage of development to expand access to and use of **Horizon** staff clients. **Horizon** is the client/server library software developed by **Ameritech Library Services**. The client software for staff modules, originally developed to run in an OS/2 Presentation Manager environment, is now being converted to run under the MS-Windows, Macintosh, OS/2, and SUN OSF/Motif platforms. **Ameritech Library Services** also announced its intention to make the staff clients compatible with **Windows 95** ("Chicago" version). The **Windows 95** version will feature enhanced security, stability, and multi-threading. The release timetables for each new version will be announced at a later date.

The popularity and usefulness of the **UnCover Reveal Service** earned **Reveal the Online Magazine Product of the Year Award** in 1994! A new enhancement to the **UnCover Reveal** service will be released in April 1995. This feature will enable users to store search strategies (e.g. searches by topic or by author name) which will be run weekly against new articles added to the **UnCover database**. The results of these searches will be sent to the Internet email address stored in your **UnCover Profile**. The **Uncover Company** will begin charging for the **Reveal** service, which has been free to individuals for the past year. The charge is \$20 per year for each individual profile. This fee will permit users to select up to 50 titles from which to receive table of contents, and to store up to 25 search strategies. Note: Companies or institutions who wish to route tables of contents internally to employees should contact **UnCover** about setting up this service. The \$20 annual fee may be paid online by credit card or **UnCover Deposit** or **Billing** account. You may also contact the **UnCover** office at 800-787-7979 for other payment options.

WLN recently completed multi-user versions of the **WLN Conspectus Software** and the **WLN/RLG Conspectus Software**. These applications were developed using the **FoxPro 2.6** relational database system. **FoxPro** software applications will run on any LAN that is **NETBIOS** compatible, including **Novell** and **Lantastic** installations. The basic LAN license can include up to ten simultaneous users; a WAN (wide area network) license is also available. Libraries across North America use **WLN's Conspectus** software to manage collection assessment data and other collection management information. 